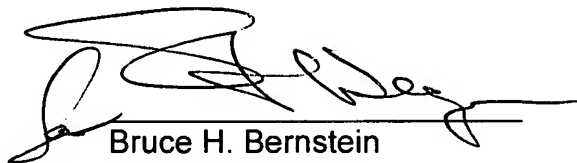


REMARKS

The Examiner is respectfully requested to enter the foregoing amendment prior to examination of the above-identified patent application. The present amendment is submitted to delete reference to element numbers in the Abstract.

Should there be any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
Masao KATO et al.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bruce H. Bernstein", written over a horizontal line.

Bruce H. Bernstein
Reg. No. 29,027

Steven Wegman
Reg. No. 31,438

September 15, 2005
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